TOWN OF WHEELOCK

SELECTBOARD MEETING

November 17th 2026 6 PM

Upstairs at Town Hall

Present: Wheelock Selectboard members Ann Lawless, Mike Richardson and Chuck Dill. Carol Rossi, Norma Twombly, representative to Kingdom East School Board, Jen Botsojourns, Kingdom East School District Superintendent, Swen Johnson, his son Richard, recorder Meaghan Rinehart. Via Zoom: Erin Swigart, Enid Ellis, Michael Miller and NEK News.

6:01pm Call to Order

Any changes to agenda: Due to an organizational glitch the superintendent conversation session will start at 7:15pm, not 7:00pm as indicated. Health Insurance Opt-Out Reference was added to New Business. Generator for garage added to Roads.

OLD BUSINESS

2027 Budgeting

The Selectboard discussed the 2027 General Fund budget. First topic was Town Hall operating expenses. Enid suggested giving the clerk a 3% raise. The Selectboard will circle back to that. Riverside Rescue requested $1,000, similar to last year. Carol requested $600 for a lister desk and chair; she plans to seek a PACIF grant that she hopes will reimburse 50% or $300. The position of Administrative Assistant to the Selectboard was discussed, as were tech costs and future planning for professional audits.

ADOPT MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING

Chuck motions, seconded by Mike to adopt minutes of 11/5. All in favor, so voted.

NEW BUSINESS

Roadside Mowing Bid Request The Selectboard discussed the roadside mowing bid request draft.

At 7:16pm, Ann motions, seconded by Chuck to recess the meeting for the **Kingdom East School District Budget Input Session** with Jen Botsojourns. All in favor, so voted.

At 7:48pm, Chuck motions, seconded by Mike to resume the Selectboard meeting. All in favor, so voted.

NEW BUSINESS, Cont'd.

Chuck motions, seconded by Mike to request roadside mowing bids for 1 pass and 2 passes. All in favor, so voted.

Approve bid request draft, sexton and cemetery mowing

The Selectboard discussed Liz Muckermans's recommendations for cemetery bid requests. Chuck motions, seconded by Mike we send out cemetery bid requests. All in favor, so voted.

Appoint Swen Johnson to fill a vacant Justice of the Peace position Ann motioned, second by Chuck, so voted. (Swen attended the meeting but he arrived after this action, unaware of the impromptu change in the agenda timing.)

CLERK/TREASURER'S REPORT

Erin hopes to get more photo submissions for the Town Report and select them at the first December meeting.

Erin proposed putting an article on the 2027 Town Meeting warning to seek voter input on transitioning to Australian Ballot voting. Ann suggested changing Town Meeting time and/or day as other options to encourage participation.

ROADS

Road report by Chuck

- There was snow on the mountain on Sunday
- S Wheelock Rd embankment project is complete, Boulay project to start (possibly) 11/30.
- Tree clearing on Cold Hill and Burroughs Rds. will be starting next week as part of the Highway Safety Improvement Grant project.

Garage Generator

Chuck can get a used one for $100 and a transfer switch will need to be installed. The Selectboard discussed getting quotes from electricians and this will be on the next meeting agenda.

Opt-Out Reference Sheet

The clerk had requested clarification of our health insurance opt-out payment rationale and history, since it is not fully addressed in the Personnel Policy. Chuck motions, seconded by Mike

to adopt the draft as written as a reference to the policy until it is next updated. An employee opting out of the health insurance benefit will be paid 40% of what an employee in the program receives. All in favor, so voted.

Grant updates

AARP grant. The Board discussed the Wheelock Community Initiative's use of Town Hall for community events it is planning. The Town acts as fiscal sponsor, holds WCI's funds and pays expenses. It was determined WCI is in effect a Town Committee and would not have to pay the fees to use the facility.

At this time Erin asked the Selectboard to please review the Spent to Budget report before any more work on the 2027 budget. She pointed out a deficit. Ann clarified that the State portion for **completed FEMA DR-4810 (2024)** repair projects should be coming in soon and will cover this.

CORRESPONDENCE

- DEC Solid Waste Report draft. Send comments to Alyssa.Eiklor@vermont.gov by 12/21/26.
- Caledonia County Sheriff provided a draft contract for services.

VISITOR COMMENTS - none

ADMINISTRATIVE & ADJOURNMENT

Chuck motions, seconded by Mike to sign administrative papers and adjourn. All in favor, so voted. Meeting adjourned at 8:35pm.

Submitted by Meaghan Rinehart

Ann Lawless

_____

Mike Richardson

_____

Chuck Dill

_____